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## Fwd: Public Comment on Proposed Food Truck Parking Change

1 message

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**Jay Camp** <jcamp@matthewsnc.gov>  
To: Shana Robertson <srobertson@matthewsnc.gov>

Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 10:11 AM

for public input on food truck text change

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Davis** <ardavis@gmail.com>  
Date: Sat, Apr 15, 2023 at 10:06 PM  
Subject: Public Comment on Proposed Food Truck Parking Change  
To: <jcamp@matthewsnc.gov>

Mr. Camp,

Apologies if this is not the proper channel for offering public comment for the Town of Matthews Planning Board, but I would like to offer my support for the proposed changes to parking ordinances (reported [here](#)) that would allow for food truck vending in public parking spaces.

Matthews is where we send our child for daycare; where we go for food and entertainment; where we go to celebrate with Christmas tree lightings, and community events. So, even though I am not a Matthews citizen proper, I am a Matthews community member. And, adding more areas for small business owners who operate food trucks to vend will be a huge benefit to our community.

As someone who co-owned a food truck in the past, I can personally attest to how hard truck owners work just to find a place to vend. In addition to all the work just to get the truck on the road, navigating regulatory restrictions in addition to costly "fees" usually associated with vending at local businesses/events (yes...businesses will invite food trucks to feed their customers and expect a kick-back for the pleasure), adds to the burden these small business owners face. This change will provide immediate and monumental benefit to both owners, and the community members who enjoy their food.

I do not believe counter-arguments over parking scarcity are credible. Parking is normally only an issue with big events, and most of those events have food trucks onsite. This change would mostly impact weekday lunch/dinner vending, where parking is rarely -- if ever -- an issue. Furthermore, food truck owners are keenly aware of oversaturation in a market, so it is not as if this change will invite a daily swarm of food trucks that occupy all available parking.

Secondly, food trucks are a *draw* to the area. All local businesses, including brick and mortar restaurants, will benefit from an increased presence of food trucks.

This is a great idea, and one that I have personally advocated to the City of Charlotte in my position as a member of the Charlotte Business Advisory Committee. Charlotte has thus far missed out on the opportunities of street vending from food trucks. Matthews should be a community leader in this initiative, and I sincerely thank you for considering it.

If your board has any questions or would be interested in hearing more about my perspective and experiences, I would be happy to speak with you at the April 25 meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Andrew Davis  
202.731.0002  
[201 Samuel Guilford Ct.](#)  
Charlotte, NC 28270

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Jay Camp, AICP  
Planning Director  
Town of Matthews  
232 Matthews Station St.  
Matthews NC 28105  
(704) 708-1226  
[jcamp@matthewsnc.gov](mailto:jcamp@matthewsnc.gov)

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